

## Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A storage unit for storing a flexible elongated object, the storage unit having a storage unit length, the storage unit comprising:

a first winding region having a first winding region length, wherein the first winding region length is parallel to the storage unit length;

a second winding region having a second winding region length, wherein the second winding region length is parallel to the storage unit length;

a tapered slot, comprising at least a pair of nubs on opposite walls of the tapered slot; and

a post between the first winding region and the second winding region.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The storage unit of claim 1, ~~further comprising a slot~~  
further comprising at least two successive pairs of nubs wherein both pairs of nubs are  
configured to grip a single cord.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The storage unit of claim 2, ~~wherein the slot further~~  
~~comprises a plurality of nubs~~ wherein the successive pairs of nubs progressively  
decrease in size according to the distance from an open end of the tapered slot.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The storage unit of claim 3, ~~wherein at least two of~~  
~~the plurality of nubs are sharply tapered so as to form a long, narrow region~~ wherein the

tapered slot tapers to a point.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)     The storage unit of claim 2, ~~wherein the slot is tapered~~ wherein a first winding region inner length is substantially equal to a second winding region inner length.

Claim 6 (Original): The storage unit of claim 2, wherein the slot is configured to flex.

Claim 7 (Original): The storage unit of claim 1, wherein the post is removable.

Claim 8 (Original): The storage unit of claim 1, further comprising an inner handle, wherein a portion of the inner handle is located within the first winding region.

Claim 9 (Original): The storage unit of claim 8, wherein the inner handle comprises a plurality of ribs.

Claim 10 (Original): The storage unit of claim 8, further comprising an outer handle, wherein a portion of the outer handle is located completely outside the first winding region and the second winding region.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A storage unit for storing a flexible elongated object, comprising:

- a first winding region having a first winding region inner length;
- a second winding region having a second winding region inner length;
- a post between the first winding region and the second winding region;
- wherein the first winding region inner length is substantially equal to the second winding region inner length.

Claim 12 (Original): The storage unit of claim 11, further comprising a tapered slot that is configured to flex.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The storage unit of claim ~~11~~, ~~further comprising a slot having a plurality of nubs.~~ 12, further comprising at least two successive pairs of nubs wherein each member of each pair are on opposite walls of the tapered slot and wherein both pairs of nubs are configured to grip a single cord and wherein successive pairs of nubs progressively decrease in size according to the distance from an open end of the slot.

Claims 14 – 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (New) A device for storing a flexible elongated object, comprising:

a first portion including:

a handle, having a first end and a second end;

a first retaining portion, including:

a tapered slot having an open end, a closed end, an inner wall and an outer wall, wherein the closed end of the tapered slot is connected to the first end of the handle, and

a winding region connected to the inner wall of the tapered slot at the open end of the tapered slot designed to retain a winding of the flexible elongated object;

a second retaining portion connected to the second end of the elongated handle, configured to mirror the first retaining portion; and

a second portion connected to the first portion, designed to identically mirror the first portion.

Claim 22 (New) The device in claim 21, wherein the handle, tapered slot and winding region are each oriented substantially parallel.

Claims 23 (New) The device in claim 22, wherein the winding region has an outer wall that is substantially planar with the outer wall of the tapered slot.

Claim 24 (New) The device in claim 23, wherein the tapered slot further comprises a pair of nubs attached to the inner wall and outer wall, configured to act in concert to grip the flexible object.

Claim 25 (New) The device in claim 24, further comprising at least two successive pairs of nubs wherein both pairs of nubs are configured to grip, in concert, a single flexible elongated object.

Claim 26 (New) The device in claim 25, wherein the successive pairs of nubs progressively decrease in size according to the distance from the open end of the tapered slot.